

## Message Text

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DRAFTED BY:AF:MLGARRISON  
APPROVED BY:AF:TWSEELYE  
S/S-MR.SEBASTIAN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 270871

NODIS  
CHEROKEE FOR AMBASSADOR

FOLLOWING REPEAT GENEVA 8677 SENT SECSTATE NOV 2. QUOTE:

S E C R E T GENEVA 8677

NODIS/CHEROKEE

TO THE SECRETARY FROM SCHAUFLE

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1  
TAGS: PFOR RH UK  
SUBJ: THE RHODESIANS COMPLICATE THEIR OWN POSITION

1. RHODESIAN PUBLIC BEHAVIOR SINCE THE BEGINNING  
OF THE CONFERENCE HAS COMPLICATED THE DIFFICULT  
ROLE WHICH SMITH HAS TO PLAY IN GENEVA. STATEMENTS  
WHICH HE, MEMBERS OF HIS DELEGATION, AND SENIOR  
OFFICIALS IN SALISBURY HAVE MADE, FEED LONG STANDING  
AFRICAN SUSPICIONS OF SMITH'S MOTIVES.

2. WE HAVE ALREADY REPORTED SUTTON-PRICE'S "SPEAKING  
NOTES". THEY CONTINUE TO BE GIVEN WIDE CIRCULATION  
AND CHONA MENTIONED THEM TO ME IN PASSING THIS MORNING.

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MUZOREWA IN HIS OCT 28 SPEECH REFERRED TO AN OCT 26

STATEMENT BY SMITH'S MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND POWER HAWKINS. REFERRING TO THE ECONOMIC STABILIZATION PLAN, HAWKINS IS REPORTED TO HAVE SAID "THEY DID SAY THAT THE FUND WHICH WAS TO BE ESTABLISHED, A PORTION OF WHICH WOULD BE INJECTED INTO OUR ECONOMY, IN ORDER TO BRING IT UP TO ITS POTENTIAL, COULD BE USED TO PURCHASE WEAPONS, ETC., BECAUSE SANCTIONS WOULD HAVE BEEN IMPOSED ON THEM WHICH WOULD ONLY HAVE AGGRAVATED THE SITUATION. WE DO DESPERATELY NEED MORE SOPHISTICATED WEAPONS OF WAR. THERE WOULD ALSO BE NO OBJECTION TO OUR RECRUITING FROM OTHER ENGLISH SPEAKING COUNTRIES. IT IS ALSO INDICATED THAT IF WE BELIEVED IT NECESSARY TO HAVE DEEPER PENETRATION INTO MOZAMBIQUE ONCE WE WERE A LEGAL ENTITY AND CRITICISM WOULD NOT APPLY."

3. VAN DER BYL'S STATEMENTS TO THE PRESS HAVE BEEN PARTICULARLY UNHELPFUL. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION ABOUT EXECUTIONS IN RHODESIA, VAN DER BYL TOLD HIS AUDIENCE THAT THERE WAS NO POINT IN DISCUSSING THAT SUBJECT SINCE THE INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED WERE ALREADY DEAD. VAN DER BYL IS ALSO BEING QUOTED AS HAVING MADE A NUMBER OF STATEMENTS ABOUT THE LACK OF AFRICAN GRATITUDE.

4. SMITH'S BACKGROUND INTERVIEW WITH ARNOAUD DE BORCHGRAVE WILL NOT HELP EITHER. PRESS AND CORRIDOR COMMENTS CHARACTERIZE THE VAN DER BYL APPOINTMENT AS AN "INSULT" TO THE AFRICANS.

5. IT IS HARD TO QUESTION SMITH'S NEED TO PLAY A STRONG HAND IN GENEVA AND NOT INDICATE WEAKNESS. NEVERTHELESS RHODESIAN PUBLIC STATEMENTS NOW STAND IN SHARP CONTRAST TO THE STATEMENTS WHICH AFRICAN DELEGATES HAVE MADE IN RECENT DAYS. RHETORICAL SLIGHTS TO THE WHITE REGIME IN SALISBURY HAVE ABATED, AND THE KISSINGER PLAN IS NO LONGER BEING CHARACTERIZED IN DISPARAGING TERMS.

6. ESPECIALLY GIVEN THE ANTI-SMITH BIAS OF THE PRESS WHICH TENDS TO DISTORT EVEN WELL-INTENTIONED

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RHODESIAN STATEMENTS, EVERYONE'S INTEREST WOULD BE SERVED BY AN EXTENSION OF THE RHETORICAL TRUCE. CATTO UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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